## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 00966 011731Z ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 /045 W

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R 011354Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2437

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 0966

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, NU

SUBJECT: SHOOT-OUT ON OUTSKIRTS OF MANAGUA: AIRFORCE VS; ARMY

1. ON FEBRUARY 26 THERE WAS A SHOOT-OUT ON THE EDGE OF MANAGUA ON
THE HEAVILY TRAVELED MANAGUA-MASAYA HIGHWAY, INVOLVING A GUARDIA
PATROL, WHICH LEFT TWO DEAD, FOUR OTHERS WOUNDED, AND TRIGGERED THE
NORMALLY HYPERACTIVE LOCAL RUMOR MILL INTO FRANTIC ACTIVITY. RATHER
THAN AN FSLN GUERRILLA ATTACK OR KIDNAP ATTEMPT AS RUMORED, THE PERPETRATORS WERE APPARENTLY TWO NICARAGUAN AIR FORCE ENLISTED MEN IN
CIVILIAN CLOTHES FOR REASONS UNKNOWN OPENED FIRE ON A GUARDIA
JEEP. ONE OF THE ATTACKERS WAS KILLED AND FOUR, OTHERS, INCLUDING
TWO GUARDIA, AND TWO PASSERS-BY WERE WOULNDED.

2. THE APPARENT ABSENCE OF ANY FSLN CONNECTION IN THE INCIDENT, CONTRARY TO RUMOR, ELIMINATES THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT COULD CONSTITUTE A NEW JUSTIFICATION FOR MAINTAINING MARTIAL LAW. THE RAPID CIRCULATION

OF RUMORS AND THE FACT THAT THE GUARDIA SWIFTLY ENTERED A CRISIS OPERATIONS POSTURE INDICATE A HEIGHTENED ANTICIPATION OF SOME FSLN RESPONSE TO THE SENTENCING OF THEIR IMPRISONED COLLEAGUES. THERERGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, MOPS, NU

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